

English summaries

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Histoire des Alpes = Storia delle Alpi = Geschichte der Alpen**

Band (Jahr): **6 (2001)**

PDF erstellt am: **27.04.2024**

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ENGLISH SUMMARIES

WOLFGANG KAISER, A EUROPEAN BORDER REGION: THE MARITIME ALPS, ALPI MARITTIME OR ALPES MARITIMES

The history of the Alpi Marittime or Alpes Maritimes is marked by numerous transformations. In the *longue durée* the non-consistency of political belonging on the one hand, and linguistic and cultural traditions on the other, form a constant feature that provides this region with a peculiar tension. Still today this makes itself clear to the foreigner and traveller journeying from Menton to Ventimiglia and on to the Col de Tende and some time no longer being completely aware what country he is actually in. In fact, one finds oneself in one of those “regions in-between” (Georges Livet) which are so common in Europe. They may well be laboratories of some common future, if it is not forgotten that not only tourists crossed over those passes, but also human beings running for their lives.

LAURENT RIPART, THE CHAPTER BOOK OF THE CITY OF NICE (ABOUT 1460). AT THE LEGAL AND HISTORIOGRAPHIC BEGINNINGS OF ITS IDENTITY

In the middle of the 15th century the council of the city of Nice had a *liber capitulorum* edited, a uniform collection of the urban articles, statutes and privileges. In the history of the region this work formed an important happening. It contained not only communal statutes, but also princely decrees, and thus provided the city with a *ius proprium* which lasted until the abolition of particular rights in the Sardinian monarchy in 1837. The editing of the Chapter Book may be regarded as a genuine birth product of the

distinctly juridical particularism of Nice. By the definition of the main topics it also influenced the historiography of the area to a great extent.

MICHEL BOTTIN, THE MARITIME ALPS ACCORDING TO PIERRE GIOFFREDO (1629–1692)

In his *Storia delle Alpi Marittime* from the 1650s Pierre Gioffredo, of Nice, describes the history of a region situated on both sides of the present Franco-Italian border and as far as the sources of the Rivers Po and Durance. He relies upon ancient authors and compares their views with those of his time. Thus he reveals the Maritime Alps as a region already named and defined by ancient times which, however, has since been almost forgotten. Gioffredo describes its limits and shows the geographical unity beyond the political fragmentation. Nice appears in this vast fresco as the geographical and historical centre of the region. The *Storia* was first published in 1839, when the state borders along the mountain ridges had largely been drawn. The historians of the 19th century viewed this work merely as an identity history of the city and county of Nice. In order to find out its regional and border-crossing dimensions one must read the original text anew.

JEAN-BAPTISTE PISANO, FROM SPACE TO TERRITORY. THE COUNTY OF NICE BETWEEN ALTERITY AND IDENTITY

It took centuries to define those territories that we now feel to be logical and so well demarcated that they form what appear to be closed worlds. This perception, a product of time, does not, however, resist the analysis of a process of construction which continually led to new configurations. The example of the county of Nice reveals how immense the effort of the Savoyan state must have been to create a new one from the originally different unit of space. When the metamorphosis finally seemed to be finished and a territorial memory established, the territory was transferred into new hands. Thus the claimed identity was condemned to withdraw into itself.

JEAN-PAUL BOYER, SPACE REPRESENTATIONS IN THE EAST OF THE PROVENÇAL ALPS. ON AN INQUIRY OF 1338

In the year 1338 the head of the hospital of Saint-Jean-de-Jérusalem in Nice had to prove his right to send troops into Vésubie. He wanted to maintain that the privileges of the hospital in Provence went as far as this mountain valley on the borders of the county. His explanations reveal a firm political image of space, based on a “national” feeling and on exact, natural and linear borders. The mountain dwellers called in as witnesses had other conceptions contrary to this point of view of the élite. The idea of the Provence was almost unknown to them, outside of their village they could hardly visualize the geography of power. Instead they stressed the relations of dependency towards the count’s officials. The inquiry of 1338 is situated at the beginning of an “acculturation process”. One factor in the opening up of the mountain regions towards external values was certainly the transhumance.

RÉGIS BERTRAND, THE “INVENTION” OF THE UPPER PROVENCE. PATH-SIGNS FOR RESEARCH: THE NAPOLEONIC EPISODE

On the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of March in the year 1815 Napoleon crossed the Southern Alps on his return from Elba. The episode has stimulated the search for written and oral testimonies, whose results, however, have been evaluated differently by the historians. As far as the stage of Gap, usually judged as “alpine”, the stories about the “flight of the eagle” have been marked in the historiographical tradition by astonishing geographical inexactitudes. The local collective memory has focussed above all on the legendary distribution of gold coins on the occasion of the ex-emperor’s passage. This part of Southern France suffered, and was due to suffer for a long time, from a lack of bibliographical attention. The Napoleonic episode has contributed but little to its “invention”.

DIONIGI ALBERA, BEYOND NORM AND STRATEGY: FOR A BALANCED COMPARISON OF ALPINE FAMILY ORGANIZATION

In the prevailing dogma on European family forms the mountain regions were considered for a long time as the realm of the stem family, characterized by the handing over of property to one single heir. Le Play described this archetypal model in the middle of the 19th century for the Pyrenees, several of his pupils then identified similar norms in the Alps, especially in the Southern French Alps. With its interest for practice and individual strategies, modern micro-history has deconstructed this geographical typology. And yet, in certain variants, it seems to come closer to the traditional assumptions than it is aware of. The article proposes to approach the historical diversity in the alpine region beyond such normative and strategical assumptions with three ideal types of domestic organization.

SOPHIE CLAIRET, REGIONAL TELEVISIONS AND THE GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF BACKWARDNESS

The terms “progress”, “lateness”, “backwardness” imply in geography to evoke the centres and the peripheries representing a dualist concept of the world in two great categories joined together by power relations, where progress insinuates itself by spreading. Thus, backwardness borders on a geographical margin, spreading very little, dominated by the centre, the origin of progress. The creation of regional television magazines, the intention of which is to go where television does not usually go, induces the inversion of this model, and one of its present manifestations may be seen in the use of the term “high country” instead of the lowering term “back country”. Two paths open up for reflexion: How does television treatment of spaces, traditionally thought of as backward, operate, and what are the spaces neglected by regional images? The article analyses a body of more than a thousand magazines, produced and distributed between 1991 and 1998 and dealing with the Provençal Alps and other Mediterranean regions of France, Spain and Italy.

**NOËL COULET, FROM THE 13TH TO THE 15TH CENTURY:
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROVENÇAL TRANSHUMANCE**

We ought to drop this eternal transhumance, substantially associated with the image of the Provence. Recent development shows us, transhumance is not immutable. It is tributary to changes of circulation conditions, organization, land-use and market prices in sheep rearing. The changes that we have seen taking place before our eyes in the past few decades lead us to ask ourselves about the transformations taking place in the past. This article shows the establishment of the Provençal transhumance from the 13th to the 15th century.

**BEATRICE PALMERO, CREDIT AND TRANSIT IN RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE ALPS AND THE SEASIDE. THE VALLEYS OF ROYA
AND NERVIA IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 17TH CENTURY**

Sources in the early 17th century show how one can construct relations between neighbouring villages by combining credit and transit. In the Roya and Nervia valleys these relations connect the Alps and the coastal region. Financing and promotion concern both alpine passes between the two valleys and relations between the villages or more exactly between their collectively exploited zones. The elites of the communities use the credit instrument of the *censo bollare* in order to control the supply channels to the villages, and they pocket certain taxes. Thanks to the protection of the court of the marquis, the interregional traffic is at the same time stimulated.

**MARCO AIME, STEFANO ALLOVIO, PIER PAOLO VIAZZO,
THE TWO SIDES OF THE MOUNTAIN RANGE.
FORMS AND CHANGES OF MOBILITY IN ROASCHIA (VALLE GESSO)**

In the past 20 years historical and anthropological research in the Alps has identified a multitude of community models, which form a spectrum rang-

ing from a strong degree of economic and structural closedness to a remarkable openness deriving from migration and trade relations. This article presents results of an ethnographical and historical-demographic study of Roaschia, a community inhabited by transhumant herdsmen and peasants in the Valle Gesso. In the light of recent literature Roaschia shows unusual features; these, however, could possibly be uncovered in other places of the Maritime Alps, thus in a sector of the mountains particularly stamped by transhumance. The two oldest forms of mobility are examined (transhumance into the plains of Piedmont; seasonal migration into Southern France), as well as the growth of trade in milk and milk products around the middle of the 20th century. This trade, which accompanied transhumance and partly replaced it, allowed an expansion of the complex system of relations based on Roaschia into Piemontese, Ligurian and Lombardic centres.

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